

**Town of Shrewsbury - Board of Selectmen
Richard D. Carney Municipal Office Building-Selectmen's Meeting Room
100 Maple Avenue
Monday, February 12, 2007 at 7:00 PM**

Minutes

Present:

Bruce Card, Maurice DePalo, Thomas Fiore, John Lebeaux, James McCaffrey, and Daniel Morgado, Town Manager. Mr. Lebeaux called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

Preliminaries:

1. Approve bills, payrolls and warrants, #0763 in the amount of \$309,270.36, and #0766 in the amount of \$7,818,421.36. Motion made, seconded and unanimously approved.
2. Approve minutes of February 5, 2007. Motion made, seconded and unanimously approved.
3. Announcements – Mr. Lebeaux advised that members of Boy Scout Troop 114 from The First Congregational Church were in attendance this evening to observe the meeting.
4. Town Manager's Report

Meetings:

5. 7:00pm – Craig C. Mello, PhD – University of Massachusetts Medical School. Mr. Lebeaux introduced 2006 Nobel Prize Winner Dr. Craig Mello and welcomed him to the meeting. Dr. Mello thanked Mr. Lebeaux and the Board for inviting him to come before them. He advised the Board that he had been a resident of Shrewsbury for the past thirteen years and as he was recently tenured at UMass he has hopes of remaining in Shrewsbury for many years to come. Dr. Mello outlined his research which led to the winning of the Nobel Prize and the impact of this research on future generations. He added that education for our children is essential to the future as well. Therefore, he was supporting a proposition 2 _ question and is offering matching funds of \$10,000 to the group supporting an override ballot question. He added that additional funds must be raised through an override but it should be done in a way that would not divide the Town. By offering the matching funds he hoped to do his part. Dr. Mello presented signed copies of the book "Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed" to the members of the Board. Mr. Lebeaux presented Dr. Mello with two framed pictures supplied by the Historical Society, a painting by a local artist and a photograph of a schoolroom in the 1800s. Mr. Lebeaux thanked Dr. Mello for coming and for sharing his thoughts with the Board.

Public Hearings:

Old Business:

New Business:

6. Review of FY 2008 Budget Status. Finance Committee Chairman, Gene Buddenhagen and Committee members Clare O'Connor and Johanna Musselman were present. Mr. Lebeaux advised that the Finance Committee had just completed their FY2008 budget review hearings. Therefore, it was appropriate to begin discussions of the FY2008 budget. The Town Manager filed a budget with a \$3.4 million dollar deficit the end of January. The deficit is primarily due expenditures over which the Town has no control, i.e., health insurance, pensions, utilities, fuel, etc. There has been some positive movement on health insurance which will make the deficit figure not as severe as originally presented. The Governor will file his budget by the end of February but the House Ways & Means figures will not be available by March 19th when the Board must to sign the warrants for Town Meeting and the Town election. Therefore, the Governor's figure must be used. Mr. Lebeaux continued that the Board has been saying for the past several years that expenditures have been greater than revenues. Questions have been put before the voters twice to increase revenues and both times they were soundly defeated. Last year the Board decided not to put forward another question and more cuts

were made in addition to those made in the previous two years. Last year the Board also endorsed a study to review the fiscal situation by an independent group and to report back. This report will be completed soon. However, initial reports indicate that no vast savings have been discovered. The next round of cuts will be more difficult and will affect services. Therefore, the Board feels that an override question to raise revenue should be considered. A discussion followed in which members of the Board voiced their opinions regarding an override question. Mr. Buddenhagen noted that the Finance Committee's job is to review and make recommendations for a balanced budget. They have not had the opportunity to review the school budget yet and they cannot make any recommendations until they know the entire picture not just one part. The type of question to be put forward was also discussed. Suggested were a one time or a multi-year override or a pyramid question allowing voters to choose among different amounts or a question in which voters could indicate which Town departments would receive an increase in funds. The Board also discussed a possible Pay-As-You-Throw trash program. After a lengthy discussion the Board concluded that there are too many unknowns at this time to vote on a question and asked the Manager to come up with a balanced budget with the revenue that is currently known. The Board tabled further discussion on the budget until the February 26th meeting keeping in mind that they have a deadline of March 19th regarding the override question.

Motion was made at 8:47pm to take a brief recess. Motion was seconded and unanimously voted. The meeting reconvened at 8:54pm.

7. Reappoint Nancy Allen to the Human Service Advisory Committee for a term of three years expiring on January 31, 2010. Motion was made, seconded, and unanimously voted to reappoint Nancy Allen to the Human Services Advisory Board for a term of three years expiring January 31, 2010.
8. Reappointment of Treasurer/Collector, Carolyn Marcotte, a term of three years to expire March 1, 2010. Motion was made to reappoint Carolyn Marcotte as Treasurer/Collector for a term of three years expiring March 1, 2010. Motion was seconded and unanimously voted.

Mr. DePalo advised the Board that his group of the Fiscal Study Committee thought that it would be helpful to do a benchmarking study regarding performance measurement. However, time and manpower constraints made it too difficult a task for them to undertake. He concurred with the group that this would be beneficial and had met with representatives of the Worcester Municipal Research Bureau (WMRB) regarding doing this type of study. Mr. DePalo had distributed sample reports of the type of study the Research Bureau could provide several weeks ago for review and asked the Board if this is something they would like to pursue. He also advised that grants could be obtained to fund the cost. If the Board does wish to go ahead, he suggested that a joint meeting with the Finance Committee, Fiscal Study Committee, and the WMRB would be beneficial. Board members advised they were not prepared to discuss this tonight and scheduled a discussion of Mr. DePalo's proposal for February 26th.

Executive Session:

9. Collective bargaining, pending litigation and value of real property. Motion was made, seconded, and unanimously voted to adjourn into executive session at 9:07pm and not to reconvene for the purpose of discussion of collective bargaining and value of real property. The Board was polled, Mr. Card, yes, Mr. McCaffrey, yes, Mr. DePalo, yes, Mr. Fiore, yes, and Mr. Lebeaux, yes.

Communications:

10. Noted copy mailed: ZBA Hearing Agenda, 2/20/07.
11. Noted copy mailed: E-mail from Robin Snyder, 2 Pheasant Hill Drive, re Shrewsbury Financial Situation. Discussed earlier this evening.
12. Noted copy mailed: CMRPC Assessment for FY 2008. Included in budget.
13. Noted copy mailed: 2010 Census Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) Program information (booklet on file in BOS office).
14. Noted copy mailed: Senator Kerry Grant Update.
15. Noted copy mailed: Letter from the Mass. Society Sons of the American Revolution re Artemas Ward event. Board will support and participate.

16. Noted copy mailed: Letter from CMRPC re Open Space & Recreation Plan.
17. Noted copy mailed: MORE Meeting Notice, Minutes of 1/19/07, By-Laws & related materials.
18. Noted copy mailed: E-mail invitation to Grand Opening of Dream Dinners.
19. Noted copy mailed: Letter from Memorial Day Parade Committee inviting Selectmen to participate. Parade will form at 9:00am on May 29th at Town Hall.
20. Noted copy mailed: Mass. Dept. of Revenue Memo re Final 2006 Equalized Valuations.
21. Noted copy mailed: Letter from Johanna Musselman, 39 Stonybrook Lane, re FY08 Budget Process.

Motion was made, seconded, and unanimously voted to adjourn into executive session at 9:07pm not to reconvene for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining and value of real property. On a roll call vote Mr. Card, yes, Mr. McCaffrey, yes, Mr. DePalo, yes, Mr. Fiore, yes, and Mr. Lebeaux, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice C. McCoy
Secretary